



ED. NEWS

A 5 minute recap of last month's education news of interest. Published by the Information Dept. of Aspira, Inc.

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Bilingual Education

The issue of Bilingual Education continues to command most of the attention in the Spanish-speaking educational community. Last month two important studies were released on the subject.

A. "Bilingual Education" - a report commissioned by the New York City Board of Education, is perhaps the most exhaustive study done by the Board, of problems faced by Puerto Rican students since the "Puerto Rican Study, 1953-1957." Some facts which come out of the report are:

- as much as 86% of all Puerto Rican students have reading levels below the normal level;
- Puerto Rican students suffer the worst drop out rate: 57%;
- there are 105,000 students classified as non-English speaking, and of these, only 4,200 (4%) received some kind of bilingual instruction in the last school year.

The objective of the study was to provide an overview of the conditions faced by Puerto Rican students. In contrast to previous studies and analyses, there seems to be an increasing awareness that bilingual education is a necessary component of any strategy designed to deal with the many obstacles to effective education in N.Y.C. Write to Anthony Santiago, Office of Personnel, Board of Education, 65 Court St., Brooklyn,, N.Y.

B. "How Equitably are Bilingual-Bicultural Education Programs Serving the Puerto Rican Students?" - an evaluation of federally-financed bilingual-bicultural education projects. This study is an analysis of the effectiveness of the E.S.E.A. Title Programs as they pertain to the Puerto Rican student population nationally. A year-by-year breakdown of federal appropriations in bilingual education is made and the following conclusions were arrived at:

- at least 37% or 3,000,000 (of the total of \$8,215,789 which has gone

to major Puerto Rican areas) has financed the education of English-speaking pupils who held 30-66% of the places in bilingual programs carried out in those areas since 1969. At least \$1,811,100 more will be lost to English-speaking pupils during FY 1973.

- Out of 31 projects currently operating in Puerto Rican areas, only 14 have Puerto Rican project directors.
- 10% of the total budget is used in evaluating the programs alone; all of the evaluations are "monopolized by a handful of research companies (non-Puerto Rican) preventing the participation of interested ethnic professionals and research centers."

The 19 page report was prepared by the Puerto Rican Association for National Affairs. A copy can be received by sending \$.25 to: P.A.N.A., 2121 P St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Recent Publications

The Spring, 1972 issue of Interracial Books For Children was devoted entirely to books and literature about Puerto Ricans. It is an excellent issue which could serve as an important resource for teachers, counsellors and students. Copies can be obtained (\$.75 each) by writing to the Council on Interracial Books for Children, Inc., 29 W 15 St., N.Y. N.Y. 10011.

The Winter, 1971 issue of New Generation Magazine was devoted to a discussion of Spanish-Speaking Americans. The articles dealt with the educational, cultural and employment conditions faced by Chicano and Puerto Ricans. Copies can be obtained (\$.75 each) by writing to New Generation 145 E 32nd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016.

Ethnic Census

Preliminary estimates from a new ethnic census being prepared by the Information Dept. of Aspira indicates that there are approximately 12,500 Puerto Rican college students in the U.S. This figure represents a 23% increase over last years number (10,120). However, almost the entire increase can be attributable to the increase of Puerto Rican enrollment at the City University of New York. While these figures are not yet complete, it would seem to indicate the failure of non-C.U.N.Y. colleges, inside and outside of New York State, to increase Puerto Rican enrollment. Within the C.U.N.Y. system, we have a different problem: June, 1972 signifies the end of the 2-year probationary period for the original Open Admissions class. The level of the dropout rate is expected to increase dramatically for Black and Puerto Rican students (refer to Vol. I, No. 11 of Ed. News).

Positions Available at Aspira

There are a number of positions at Aspira which are currently being

filled. We are looking for bi-lingual supervisory and counselling staff to work with our student population. A Director is being sought for our CREO program which is a pilot bilingual education project in El Barrio.

We are also seeking secretarial and clerical personnel. Applicants for supervisory and counselling positions should send in two (2) copies of their resume to:

Ms Jennie Silva
Dept. of Information
Aspira of New York
296 Fifth Ave.
NY NY 10001

Applicants for secretarial or clerical positions should call Ms Silva (244-1110).

Finally, Aspira is also looking for a new Executive Director, Mr. Louis Nieves having announced his resignation. Any person who would like to apply for the Directorship should write to Mr. Jose Cabranes, Chairman, Board of Directors, Aspira of New York.